

**SUMMER SERIES ON  
ENHANCING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD  
PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS:**

**IMPLEMENTING THE ABSENT PARENT PROTOCOL AND WHAT  
TO DO ABOUT INCARCERATED PARENTS**

**Presented on: July 15, 2008**

**Holiday Inn-South, Lansing**

**8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**



***State Court Administrative Office -- Child Welfare Services***

***Cosponsored by:  
Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan  
Michigan Department of Human Services  
Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice***

This program is funded by a federal Children's Justice Act grant to the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice administered through the Michigan Department of Human Services, under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Administration of Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, CFDA 93.643, being sections 107(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) as amended (42 USC 5101 *et seq.*); and the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, as amended (42 USC 10601 *et seq.*) In addition, this is a joint project of the State Court Administrative Office and the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice, chaired by the Honorable Elizabeth A. Weaver, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Over 70 percent of those incarcerated in jails and prison within the state of Michigan are parents. The resulting societal, familial, and economic consequences for the children of those incarcerated parents involves a number of interrelated factors including homelessness, juvenile delinquency, unemployment, poverty, children living in homes with a single or no parent, and physical and sexual trauma. Research supports links between incarceration and prevalent child-welfare issues.

- One in 33 American children and nearly one in eight African American children have a parent who is incarcerated.
- Nearly 70 percent of incarcerated girls and over 30 percent of incarcerated women meet the criteria to be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Fifty percent of male children born to parents who have been incarcerated will, themselves, be incarcerated in the future.

Children of incarcerated males frequently remain with their mothers when their fathers enter prison; but incarcerated mothers often previously had sole custody of their children. As a result, when mothers are incarcerated, their children may enter the child welfare system, become homeless, or reside with a relative caregiver. Mandatory sentencing for drug offenses has made women prisoners the fastest-growing segment of the prison population nationwide. That has increased the number of children entering foster care or living with relatives.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) requires states to seek termination of parental rights when a child has been placed in foster care for 15 of the last 22 months. Prison terms often exceed this threshold. While the average amount of time a child spends in foster care has not changed post-ASFA, terminations of parental rights quadrupled from 6,000 in 1997 to 24,000 in 1999, mostly because terminations of incarcerated parents' parental rights quintupled.

As the second training in the summer 2008 series on enhancing parental involvement in child protective proceedings, "Implementing the Absent Parent Protocol and What to do About Incarcerated Parents" will aim to further understanding of these problems and present new techniques for addressing the issues that may arise in interactions with this population. This training's overarching goal will be to help participants increase the likelihood of absent and incarcerated parents being meaningfully involved in their children's lives.

The opening session will feature Nell Bernstein, award-winning journalist, author of the book, *All Alone in the World: Children of the Incarcerated*, and coordinator of the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership. She will provide a framework for understanding the interwoven issues surrounding children of incarcerated parents. She will also offer insights concerning successful community re-entry preparation for both parents and children.

Next, Angel Sorrells, management analyst, State Court Administrative Office, and Chris Durocher, manager, Foster Care, Adoption, and PRIDE Training, Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Institute, will provide tips for effectively implementing the revised *Absent Parent Protocol*, a guide used by courts and caseworkers to identify and locate absent parents, to enhance parental involvement, and to increase viable placement options for children with missing parents.

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, Cont.**

Amy Dworsky and Ande Nesmith, senior researchers at the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall Center for Children, will team up to present findings from their respective research studies of foster care placement among the children of incarcerated mothers and the impact of incarceration from the perspective of the those children and their caregivers.

Florida Andrews, director of the Michigan-based Children's Visitation Program, will present her field-tested observations about providing criminal justice and human services programming for incarcerated parents' children. Her presentation will highlight the work of the Children's Visitation Program, which facilitates regularly supervised visits of children with their incarcerated mothers in facilities throughout Michigan.

Yolanda Perez of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Planning and Community Development Administration, Office of Offender ReEntry, and Teresa Chandler of the MDOC's Correctional Facilities Administration, will discuss current programming available within the MDOC, discuss aspects of the Bodega ® Model proposal, and detail the current Kent County Family Advocacy program initiatives.

Judges, referees, attorneys, caseworkers and related child welfare professionals will have a unique opportunity to hear state and national experts provide information and perspectives on how to benefit foster children by enhancing absent and incarcerated parents' involvement with their children.

### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

- Judges and referees
- Prosecutors/Assistant Attorneys General
- Lawyer-guardians ad litem and parents' attorneys
- Children's Protective Services workers
- Department of Human Services and private agency caseworkers
- Tribal caseworkers, judges, and related staff
- CASAs, Foster Care Review Board members, and related child welfare professionals

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### **REGISTRATION**

**THERE IS NO REGISTRATION COST TO ATTEND THIS TRAINING.** The cost of this training is generously funded by the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice. All training materials, parking validation and lunch are provided. Except for DHS workers, mileage and lodging will not be reimbursed and are the responsibility of individual attendees. To enable DHS workers to attend this training, the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice has generously agreed to reimburse DHS workers' mileage and lodging, as detailed in the L-letter related to this training announcement.

Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. However, there may be some exceptions to ensure geographic diversity and participation across professions. A confirmation letter will be sent to you approximately two weeks before the training. That letter will provide an agenda and additional details about the training.

**Fill out and return the completed Training  
Registration form no later than June 30, 2008.**

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS**

An application to offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for LMSWs and LBSWs has been submitted and approval is pending. Upon approval, we will provide CEUs at no charge to qualified individuals who attend the entire portion of the training for which they are registered. Attendance forms must be signed on site in order to receive the certificate necessary to receive CEUs. There are no exceptions to these requirements.

### **LODGING INFORMATION**

A limited block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn-South in Lansing through June 13, 2008.

**Please Note: You are responsible for your overnight expenses; however, a special rate of \$65.00 has been negotiated. To make your reservation, contact the Holiday Inn-South directly at 517- 694-8123. When making your reservation, please be sure to specify that you are attending the State Court Administrative Office -- Child Welfare Services training to ensure that you receive our special reduced rate.**

If you have any questions, please call Julie Welch or Jennifer Doerr at 517-334-6060 ext. 833 or 836 or e-mail us at [welchj@michigan.gov](mailto:welchj@michigan.gov) or [doerrj@michigan.gov](mailto:doerrj@michigan.gov).

### **GETTING THERE**

The Holiday Inn-South is located 6820 South Cedar Street, Lansing, MI, 48911. Directions can be found by going to the following websites:

Hotel site: <http://www.hislansing.com/guest.html>

MapQuest: [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)

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**REGISTRATION**

(Please print or type legibly. This information will be used for your name tag.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Involvement with Child Protective Proceedings/Child Welfare: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (Confirmations will be sent by e-mail only.)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed registration form by June 30, 2008, to:**

**PAAM/CATS  
116 W. Ottawa, Suite 500  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Fax: 517-334-6787**

**For further information, or if you require handicap access to facilities or special assistance at the program, please contact Julie Welch or Jennifer Doerr at 517-334-6060 ext. 833 or 836, or e-mail us at [welchj@michigan.gov](mailto:welchj@michigan.gov) or [doerrj@michigan.gov](mailto:doerrj@michigan.gov).**

Space is limited, so please return your registration as soon as possible to maximize your opportunity to attend. Your registration is a commitment to attend the entire training. Please do not register to attend this training unless you have scheduling flexibility and have received the necessary authorization to attend. If it is necessary to cancel after you have been confirmed to attend this training, please contact Ms. Doerr as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Registrations may be transferred to another individual with prior confirmation from SCAO-Child Welfare Services. **Onsite registration is not available.** Subject to space limitations, we will attempt to accommodate late registrants up to two weeks before the training dates.